

Mr. Chairman, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Robert Wood, I'm representing Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife ass. and it's Board of Directors.

We would like to go on record in "OPPOSITION" to SB 395, for the following reasons.

- We feel that there should be some sort of educational instruction from the state before a mentor is allowed to purchase a license for a Youth. Maybe a on line refresher course on ethics, as well as safe gun handling.
- We agree with the majority of Montanan's that took the poll after the last Youth season was defeated in the last session. (~~Handout~~)
- We feel that the Gun Safety instructors weren't brought to the table to discuss their views and opinions on this season.
- There has been loss of opportunity because youth hunters had bad mentors during hunts in the Sula Basin that resulted in landowners closing their properties. (See attached handout).
- If you want to succeed in keeping hunters numbers up, we feel better approaches would be to insure more wildlife to hunt, and access to those animals. Those are higher on the list of reasons why people lose interest in hunting and no longer participate. Killing Block is anti-productive as an example.

Again we urge a **NO** vote on SB 395.

Thanks for your consideration:

Tony Jones President,

Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association BOD